(d) whether the process of recommendation would be easier; and

(e) whether the recommendation system would be extended for higher education also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) No, Sir.

NGOs engaged in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

†4045. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Non-Governmental Organisations engaged by his Ministry in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during last three years and the amount released to them;

(b) the names of such foremost Non-Governmental Organisations which have been given the amount of over 10 crores of rupees;

(c) whether their activities have been verified during these years and the realiability of these institutions got certified; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the amount spent by these institutions was verified and if so, the number of the institutions blacklisted for misuse of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Forty-four voluntary organizations received financial assistance for Innovative & Experimental Education Projects under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, during the last three years *i.e.* 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05. A total amount of Rs. 8.72 crores was released to them over this period.

(b) No voluntary organization was given financial assistance of Rs. 10 crores or more.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

Reconstitution of Central Advisory Board of Education

4046. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Central Advisory Board of Education has been reconstituted recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the goals set for the reconstituted board;

(c) whether new committees have been set up to address critical issues in education; and

(d) if so, the details of the issues identified for the purpose and by when decisions would be taken on those issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) was reconstituted by the Government in July, 2004. The Board consists of nominated members representing various interests in addition to representatives of the Government of India, State Governments and UT Administrations, elected members from the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha etc. The functions of the CABE are:

(i) to review the progress of education from time to time;

(ii) to appraise the extent and manner in which the education policy has been implemented by the Central and State Governments, and other concerned agencies, and to give appropriate advice in the matter;

(iii) to advice regarding coordination between the Central and State Governments/UT Administrations, State Governments and non-governmental agencies for educational development in accordance with the education policy; and

(iv) to advise, *suo moto,* or on a reference made to it by the Central Government or any State Government or a Union Territory Administration on any educational question.

(c) and (d) The first meeting of the reconstituted Board was held on 10-11 August, 2004 at New Delhi, during which some critical issues and emerged needing detailed deliberation. Accordingly seven CABE committees have been set up on the following issues:—

1. Free and Compulsory Education Bill and other issues related to Elementary Education

2. Girls Education and the Common School System
3. Universalisation of Secondary Education
4. Autonomy of Higher Education Institutions
5. Integration of Culture Education in the School Curriculum
6. Regulatory Mechanism for the Text Books and parallel text books taught in schools outside the Government
7. Financing of Higher and Technical Education

The CABE Committee have not yet furnished their reports.

Students in rural schools

4047. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NCERT had recently organized a conference of the rural teachers to discuss the National Curriculum Framework review;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the participants had conveyed their concern that rural schools are not getting enough students;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps NCERT proposes to ensure that there are sufficient students in the rural schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As part of the ongoing exercise of the National Curriculum Framework Review, a conference of 104 school teachers from rural areas of various parts of the country was organized from 9 to 12 April, 2005 at the NCERT, New Delhi. The Conference deliberated on emerging issues related to the curriculum practices in the schools of rural India. It was woven around specific themes including—Challenge of Rural Education, Systemic Reforms in Education, Teaching-Learning Processes, Evaluation and Examination, Art, Music, Dance and Theatre in Education etc.

(c) and (d) Though some of the teachers voiced their concern over the decline of student strength in Government schools due to mushrooming of English medium schools in rural areas, no specific data is available to reflect on the magnitude of the problem.